

## Expanding Early Learning Provision for Two Year Olds



### **About the Two Year Old Fund**

Norfolk County Council has created a brand new £1m investment fund to enable existing and new early learning and childcare providers to increase the number of places they have available for two year olds.

From September 2013 the local authority has a new duty to ensure there are sufficient places available for eligible two year olds to access free early learning places. The aim of the fund is to help settings increase their capacity to provide places for eligible two year olds by extending or improving existing facilities or creating new provision through capital developments. The fund is able to offer either grants or loans (or a mixture of both) to support capital projects that will deliver this aim. This could include projects to improve indoor or outdoor facilities; building extensions or improved access for disabled children.

**Applications for loans are particularly encouraged as this will help to perpetuate the funding available, and maximise its long term benefit.**

### **Who can apply?**

Organisations such as new or existing playgroups, pre-schools and day nurseries; including any of Norfolk's schools as long as they meet the criteria.

### **What sort of projects can the Two Year Old Fund support?**

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that projects will provide new, high-quality childcare places for 2 year olds, by for example:

- New build or extension to existing building
- Installation of new facilities, eg toilets/baby-changing facility
- Improvements to the environment leading to greater capacity (eg outdoor area, refurbishment of toilets, replacement flooring)
- Improving accessibility (ramps etc)

Please note that the fund **cannot** support Revenue costs (ie running costs, staffing, venue hire / rent and utilities).

**Particular consideration will be given to projects that are within one of 12 priority Children's Centre areas:**

- Bowthorpe, West Earlham & Costessey Area (Norwich) – CC Lot No 4
- CFM (Norwich - Catton, Fiddlewood & Milecross) – CC Lot No 3
- City & Eaton (Norwich) – CC Lot No 7
- Earlham Early Years (Norwich) – CC Lot No 1
- East City & Framingham Earl Areas (Norwich) – CC Lot No 6
- North City (Norwich) – CC Lot No 5
- Thorpe Hamlet & Heartsease / Dussindale (Norwich) – CC Lot No 2
- Great Yarmouth / Greenacre – CC Lot No 23
- Seagulls / Gorleston & Hopton – CC Lot No 24
- Signpost + Woottons + Gaywood North Bank (King's Lynn) – CC Lot No 27
- Vancouver + Springwood (King's Lynn) – CC Lot No 26
- Thetford / Thetford Drake – CC Lot No 35

**Applicants will need to provide a business case showing how their proposed project will meet the aims of the fund.**

***How much can I apply for?***

**Grants or loans (or a mixture of both) from £5,000 up to £100,000 are available, to be spent within 12 months of the award.**

The loans, which are unsecured, will be repayable over a maximum period of three years together with a fixed APR of 3%.

Decisions will be made on an individual basis. Grants and loans will be paid by BACS, and may be given in installments.

***How to apply***

The full criteria and application forms for Grants and Loans can be downloaded from [www.norfolkfoundation.com](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com). Please ensure you read the full guidance before making an application.

If you wish to apply for a mixture of grants and loans please contact Norfolk Community Foundation for advice prior to beginning an application.

***When can I apply?***

Grants/loans will be allocated through three funding rounds:

- **Round 1**  
Closing Date: 31 September 2013  
Mid November: Successful applicants notified
- **Round 2**  
Closing Date: 31 January 2014  
Mid March 2014: Successful applicants notified
- **Round 3 (dependent on funding still be available)**  
Closing Date: 31 May 2014  
Mid July 2014: Successful applicants notified.

**If you would like to discuss your application, or require any support or advice please contact Norfolk Community Foundation on 01603 623958 / email [grants@norfolkfoundation.com](mailto:grants@norfolkfoundation.com)**